

St. Peter's & St Paul's Churches
The Celebration of Mass
& the Sacraments in a time of COVID-19
August 2020

The church will re-open for Mass on the weekend of 1st / 2nd August.

(St. Peter's)

The Vigil Mass will be at 4.45pm
Sunday Mass at 10.00am & 12.15pm

(St. Paul's)

The Vigil Mass at 6.00pm
Sunday at 11.15am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(On request)

BAPTISM

St. Peter's & St. Paul's
(A maximum of 25 people)

Sunday at 2pm

FUNERALS

(A maximum of 20 people)

May I remind you that if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED

Those who are SHIELDING should not come to Mass until advised it is safe to do so by the Scottish Government.

Those who are in other vulnerable groups should follow Scottish Government advice when making the decision to come to Mass.

In preparing the church for re-opening we have followed the guidance of the First Minister and the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. I am confident that all that has been done in these past weeks will encourage proper social distancing and keep everyone safe. For your part, all I ask is this:

- that you arrive early for Mass;
- that you have your face mask on when you enter church grounds; (Except for children under 5 and those with certain medical conditions)
- that you report to one of the welcoming team who will greet you as you enter the building;
- that you confirm your seat number and name, or give your contact details;
- that you sanitise your hands as directed before entering and leaving the main body of the church;
- that you enter the main body of the church following the instruction of the pass-keeper
- that you follow the instructions of the pass-keepers at all times.

Please follow the signs clearly marked on the floor; keeping a safe distance of two metres as you go, and taking your time moving to or from your seat, as directed. No system is perfect; if it doesn't work, we will change it until we get it right. At this initial stage, I ask for your **PATIENCE** and your full **CO-OPERATION**.

The following changes introduced at Mass in the early days of COVID-19 remain in place:

- Donations for both collections should be inserted in the boxes provided on the tables on either side of the pews as parishioners enter the main body of the church. **(Parishioners may wish to make their offerings using a Standing Order.)**
- No newsletters
- No Mass books
- No paper notices
- No leaflets
- No hymn books
- No magazines
- No passing of collection baskets
- No offertory procession
- No sign of peace
- No Holy Communion from the chalice.

These additional changes have now been added to the list:

TOILETS ARE OUT OF USE

- No use of confessionals
- No cry rooms
- No votive candles
- Parishioners may only pray at their designated seat, and should not move around the church to visit altars or statues.
- No altar servers
- No sacristan
- Readers must read from a separate place from the Ambo, using photocopied texts or their own missal.
- Only the priest should be on the Sanctuary.

Recognising that the virus is predominantly contagious through the breathing in of air droplets, these guidelines are based on the need to reduce the length of time when parishioners are together. These are tentative steps for returning to Mass and may be reviewed at any time:

- Singing of Mass parts and hymns will be omitted.
- Cantors will be used in certain circumstances behind a screen.
- Both the Gloria and the Creed will be omitted.
- At Sunday Mass the second reading will be omitted.
- The sermon will be brief.

Instructions for receiving Holy Communion

- Please remain seated for communion. The priest will come to you and offer Holy Communion or a blessing.
- If you wish Holy Communion, please stand.
- If you wish a blessing, please stand and cross your arms over your chest.
- The priest will sanitise his hands before and after the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The priest will wear a mask during the distribution of Holy Communion.

- The use of the short formula for distribution of Holy Communion will be used. In place of the words “Body of Christ” for each communicant, before the Celebrant receives Holy Communion, he will say these words “May the Body and Blood of Christ keep us all safe to eternal life”, to which the congregation responds, “Amen”.
- In accordance with the national protocol on Infection Control, Holy Communion is to be received in the hand for the duration of the pandemic.

Without doubt, it will be a very strange and different liturgy that we will celebrate in the coming months. Nevertheless, I look forward to being with you for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. It is a new challenge we face and one that we will embrace with confidence, with the help of God.

Thank you to all those parishioners who kindly volunteered their time to make it possible for the church to re-open and for ensuring our safety and wellbeing. We are in their capable hands and can be confident that our sacred space is prepared and ready for worship. “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.”

Thank you for your support and co-operation as we move forward into a new era of being church. Take care and stay safe!

Canon Eddie